

## White Sands remembers the crew of STS-107

Employees of the NASA White Sands Test Facility, Las Cruces, N.M., attended a televised memorial service for the seven astronauts who died during Space Shuttle *Columbia*'s reentry into the earth's atmosphere. The employees watched while NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and President George W. Bush comforted the grieving family members during the Feb. 4 memorial service at Johnson Space Center. WSTF is a component of JSC and conducts tests on rocket propulsion systems and materials for the space program.

"We are a great team; we are part of the NASA family," said Joseph Fries, NASA Manager of WSTF and of White Sands Space Harbor (WSSH), to the employees. "We must first take time to grieve for our recent loss, then we must continue to do the work that we know how to do so well with a renewed vigor and without the fear of failure."

For more than 20 years, the test facility and its outlying WSSH have conducted astronaut training in the critical phase of final approach and landing of the shuttle orbiter. The WSSH site, located in the alkali flats portion of the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range near Holloman Air Force Base, has two 7-mile laser-leveled runways made of compacted gypsum, which simulate the landing strips at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Edwards Air Force Base in California. The approach and landing training flights are conducted using the NASA Shuttle Training Aircraft (STA), which are Grumman Gulfstream corporate jets specially modified to mimic the flight dynamics of the much larger shuttle orbiter.

"During the training flights, the pilots and commanders aboard the STA are in constant radio contact with the traffic advisors at WSSH," said Robert Mitchell, NASA/WSSH. "Our traffic advisors know that the astronauts would always politely thank them, even for the smallest effort. Personally knowing a couple of the astronauts from the Space Shuttle *Columbia* makes this tragedy much more difficult for us."

STS-107 Pilot Willie McCool and Mission Specialist Laurel Clark visited WSTF just three years ago for the WSSH Friends & Family Day and addressed the employees. "Willie was especially patient and helpful in setting up the day's agenda," Mitchell said. After the astronauts described their mission training and experiences, they answered a multitude of questions from the audience. McCool and Clark also attended the Appreciation Day for the El Paso Forward Operations and WSSH employees, held at the NASA Hanger in El Paso, Texas in 2002.

"Their deaths are a terrible thing," said Skip Rasmussen, Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc. (HTSI), a traffic advisor at the WSSH tower. Rasmussen sent a condolence message on behalf of the WSSH crew: "It is a tragic loss when we lose any of our astronauts," the message reads. "However, when we have personally met these people, had lunch with them, discussed the profession with them and laughed with them, the tragedy goes much deeper. Our hopes and prayers go out to their families that they may make it through this time of grief."

"I feel a sadness for the astronauts' families and friends," said HTSI Program Manager Mark Leifeste. "Many of the astronauts trained at WSSH. I feel that we should cherish our relationships more today and not wait until something happens to make our feelings known. I believe that everyone here will do his or her part to make every difference they can, at a personal level, by continuing to do the work we do so well."

The seven brave astronauts who paid the ultimate price in the service of science and the betterment of all mankind are in the thoughts and prayers of all the NASA White Sands employees as they and the rest of the nation move forward from this tragedy. ♦



NASA JSC 011-0044

**Above: At the White Sands Space Harbor Friends and Family Day three years ago, STS-107 Pilot Willie McCool signed an autograph for a young space enthusiast. McCool attended the event with Mission Specialist Laurel Clark.**

**Below: After having capped off STS-3 with a landing at White Sands – the first and only landing there – *Columbia* flew back to Kennedy Space Center aboard the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft.**



NASA JSC 0482-0659

## Bridget Broussard-Guidry

**Time at JSC:** Almost 20 years

**Organization:** Financial Management Division

**Position title:** Financial Management Specialist

**Education:** Jesse H. Jones High School

**Place of birth:** Houston, Texas

**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

A continuous education of the struggles, successes, inventions and contributions of our ancestors’ legacy to be shared with our youth so they, too, can encourage and inspire. “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” –Phil.4:13

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

Today is the tomorrow you were worried about yesterday. Was it worth it?



## Dwight S. Auzenne

**Time at JSC:** Eight years

**Organization:** Office of the Chief Engineer, Systems Management Office

**Position title:** Project Management Analyst

**Education:** Bachelor’s of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Louisiana State University; Master’s in Engineering Management, Cleveland State University

**Place of birth:** Opelousas, La.

**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

Black History Month observance, to me, means taking time out to understand the contributions and sacrifices of Americans, which have enabled the way of life we enjoy today.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” –Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Tressa A. Pulliam

**Time at JSC:** 15 years

**Organization:** Astronaut Office

**Position title:** Secretary

**Education:** Sophomore at San Jacinto College

**Place of birth:** Hayti, Mo.

**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

Honoring the people that have gone before us by passing on the legacy that has been left by so many, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, and making sure that children are educated and given a positive view of black history.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

Don’t allow anyone to make you lose focus of your goals.



## Pamela Denkins

**Time at JSC:** 16 years

**Organization:** Space and Life Sciences/Bioastronautics

**Position title:** Radiation Research Specialist

**Education:** Bachelor’s of Science in Physics; Master’s in Mathematics; Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology

**Place of birth:** Brenham, Texas

**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

It’s great that we have this month set aside for national observance, but black history observance is an everyday event for me. As a child, my parents made my siblings and me aware of the richness of our culture and history and its impact on the world – humanity, science, engineering, education and the arts. This influence is so widespread that black history must and should be recognized at all times.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

I don’t limit myself...there are so many for all of life’s situations. I use whatever is appropriate for the time.



## Ralph Anderson

**Time at JSC:** 23 years

**Organization:** Office of the Chief Engineer

**Position title:** Manager, Project Improvements Office

**Education:** Bachelor’s of Science in Electronics, Alcorn State University; MBA, University of Houston - Clear Lake

**Place of birth:** Vicksburg, Miss.

**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

It’s a time to reflect that we stand today on the shoulders of many who fought and died for our race and for this country; to understand that it is our never-ending duty to continue the quest for perfection and by our performance, to provide a path for those who otherwise would have no avenue for professional achievement.

**Favorite words of wisdom:**

“The world makes way for the man who knows where he is going.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson





# Irene E. Kaye



**Time at JSC:** 19 years  
**Organization:** Structural Engineering Division  
**Position title:** Division Chief  
**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Houston  
**Place of birth:** Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Canada  
**What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC?** I don't see any major challenge differences between being a female leader or a male leader. We all have to establish technical credibility, integrate our personal integrity and establish our own style that works in our environment.  
**Words of Encouragement:** Do the best you can do for every task you are given, as no task is too small or unimportant. Every large endeavor is made up of multiple smaller tasks that in the end will lead you to your goal.

# Yolanda Marshall



**Time at JSC:** Joined NASA in October 2002; began career as a reliability engineer with the Boeing Company in 1980  
**Organization:** Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate  
**Education:** Texas A&M University  
**Place of birth:** Alamogordo, N.M.  
**What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC?** My greatest challenge is encouraging my team to see through other's eyes. It is important to understand and respect another's perception and view. Once you understand that perception, it is even more important to be willing to deal with it and improve communication and expectations.  
**Words of Encouragement:** As a leader or manager, you are not alone. When you have a clear vision and you help others to see your vision, they are with you every step of the way. When you have stress, go see your people. I can draw on the people around me and feel their commitment and dedication, and it is very energizing.

# Leslie Roe



**Time at JSC:** 3.5 years  
**Organization:** International Space Station Program Office  
**Position title:** International Space Station Payloads Office Manager  
**Education:** Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, University of Central Florida  
**Place of birth:** Gainesville, Fla.  
**What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC?** My greatest challenge as a leader, really nothing to do with being female, is motivating people to change, to move to something better – a new way of doing things.  
**Words of Encouragement:** The best advice I have is to get an education and work in experience along the way. Experience in the corporate world will go a long way when you graduate and are looking for full-time employment.

# Lucy Yates



**Time at JSC:** 16 years  
**Organization:** Space Station Procurement  
**Position title:** Manager, Space Station Procurement Office  
**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Political, Science Texas Tech University; Master's of Public Administration, University of Texas at San Antonio  
**Place of birth:** Alamogordo, N.M.  
**What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC?** Business functions at JSC are critically important support functions to very technical programs and initiatives. A person in a business role, especially a female, has to be extremely comfortable with the nature of this job and must be able to articulate business requirements critical to every successful program or project.  
**Words of Encouragement:** In your career, as in life, you must persevere. I have never been the smartest person in any room but I'm stubborn to learn and understand and push myself to be smarter. Being stubborn, in this sense, allows you to adapt and succeed in changing environments, to take on new challenges and to succeed in every assignment because you are prepared with relevant knowledge and skills.

# Jeanne Newman



**Time at JSC:** 17 years  
**Organization:** Media Services Corporation/IMPASS Contract  
**Position title:** Manager, Public Affairs Services  
**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Broadcasting & Film from Trinity University  
**Place of birth:** Edinburg, Texas  
**What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC?** One thing that makes my job interesting is the variety of challenges we experience every day. One thing is sure: a challenge can either overwhelm you or give you a chance to engage your creative problem-solving skills. Fortunately I am part of a team that is very good at tackling difficult situations by finding solutions that may not always be the easiest or the most obvious.  
**Words of Encouragement:** Taped to my computer monitor is a bookmark that a co-worker gave me. The bookmark says, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." I believe that. When faced with a difficult situation, we get to choose how we react. It is that choice that can make the difference in the outcome.

# Educator Astronaut Program in Full Swing

By Kim Hulsey

On Jan. 21, at the Hardy Middle School in Washington, D.C., NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe announced the official beginning of the Educator Astronaut Program in a renewed focus on education in support of NASA’s Mission “to inspire the next generation of explorers...as only NASA can.”

This program aims to motivate students and educators to pursue careers in science, math, engineering and technology. O’Keefe was joined by NASA Associate Administrator for Education Dr. Adena Loston, Chief of the Astronaut Office Kent Rominger, and Astronauts Leland Melvin and Barbara Morgan. Morgan is NASA’s first designated Educator Astronaut.

Eleven days after the announcement, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and its crew were lost. However, the Educator Astronaut Program, like the rest of NASA, will honor the crew by pressing forward. A quote from the Educator Astronaut Web site said, “We owe it to the *Columbia* crew not to give up; we must continue the journey they began.”

The sentiment was echoed by Dr. Loston. “We will honor their legacy by continuing to pursue our mission goals,” she said. “We believe that because of the space program’s unique hold on the imagination of the young and the young at heart, we have a special opportunity to inspire and motivate our youth to explore the wonders of math and science.”

The application deadline for the recruitment campaign – April 30 – is fast approaching. Employees, their children, spouses, extended family and community can support the program by nominating a teacher to become an Educator Astronaut.

## What is an Educator Astronaut?

An Educator Astronaut is a fully qualified, permanent member of NASA’s Astronaut Corps who has expertise in K-12 education. These Educator Astronauts will help lead the Agency in the development of new ways to connect space exploration with the classroom, and to inspire future explorers.

“We need an ambitious program,” said Mike Kincaid, Chief of JSC’s Education and Student Programs. Kincaid is also the Team Lead for the Educator Astronaut Program. “Our country needs more students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics to protect our security and our way of life. The NASA team needs people skilled in these areas to continue its legacy of exploration and achievement.”

Educator Astronauts will be qualified, full-time, permanent members of the Astronaut Corps with multiple flight opportunities. Their duties will be equivalent to those performed by other Mission Specialist

Astronauts – including spacewalks, International Space Station deployment, and experiment management. Once they have successfully completed their training, they will be eligible for multiple flights aboard the space shuttle and the ISS, helping coordinate space shuttle crew activity planning operations, and even assisting with science experiments. Every day, they will experience something unique that they can use to engage students and inspire them to consider technical careers.

When not in Astronaut Candidate or mission training, these Educator Astronauts will be on technical assignments within the Astronaut Office and working with NASA’s education programs to convey their experiences to educators and students across the country. To help in this outreach effort, NASA will employ technologies and mediums such as telepresence, the Internet, video and other multi-media tools, as well as in-person engagements between the Educator Astronauts and America’s educators and students.

## What can I do?

“Everyone can be involved in this opportunity,” said Melvin, Educator

Astronaut Program Co-Manager. The Program offers many ways to participate – from the educators who fly into space to the educators who later learn from their experiences, and from the students, parents and community members who nominate teachers and follow them through training and missions.

One way to get involved is to nominate a favorite teacher by visiting [edspace.nasa.gov/nominate/nominate.html](http://edspace.nasa.gov/nominate/nominate.html). Students, educators, friends and the general public can nominate any teacher for the program. All nominated teachers will be notified by NASA of their nomination, and it is then up to the teacher whether or not to apply. Or, interested teachers can apply without waiting for a nomination.

Employees can also be involved through Earth Crew, a Web-based initiative linking adult and student participants with space-based education activities and programs.

“The Earth Crew is an interactive program that lets teams here on the ground support our work in space with the NASA team,” said Melvin. “In this way, the program embraces the entire community, not just NASA employees, to be involved with our work in space.”

Earth Crews receive email updates, special Mission Assignments, and can help design future mission patches. The Earth Crew online resources also include astronaut profiles and training information, information on living and working in space, NASA career profiles and soon, a Virtual Astronaut feature.

For more information on the Educator Astronaut Program, visit [www.edspace.nasa.gov](http://www.edspace.nasa.gov) or contact Bob Fitzmaurice, Ed.D.,

## NOMINATE AN EDUCATOR

**Anyone can nominate any teacher for the Educator Astronaut Program. It is then up to the nominated teacher whether or not to formally apply. However, a nomination is not a requirement for application.**

**To nominate a favorite teacher, go to [edspace.nasa.gov/nominate/nominate.html](http://edspace.nasa.gov/nominate/nominate.html) and follow the instructions.**

**Educators who wish to apply may go to [edspace.nasa.gov/apply/howapply.html](http://edspace.nasa.gov/apply/howapply.html) and follow the instructions.**

**Applicants who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local libraries or call 1-877-EDASTRO (or 877-332-7876).**

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Editor . . . . . Kendra Ceule  
Senior Editor . . . . . Melissa Davis

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